



For Release: Tuesday, February 21, 2017

17-209-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/midwest

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

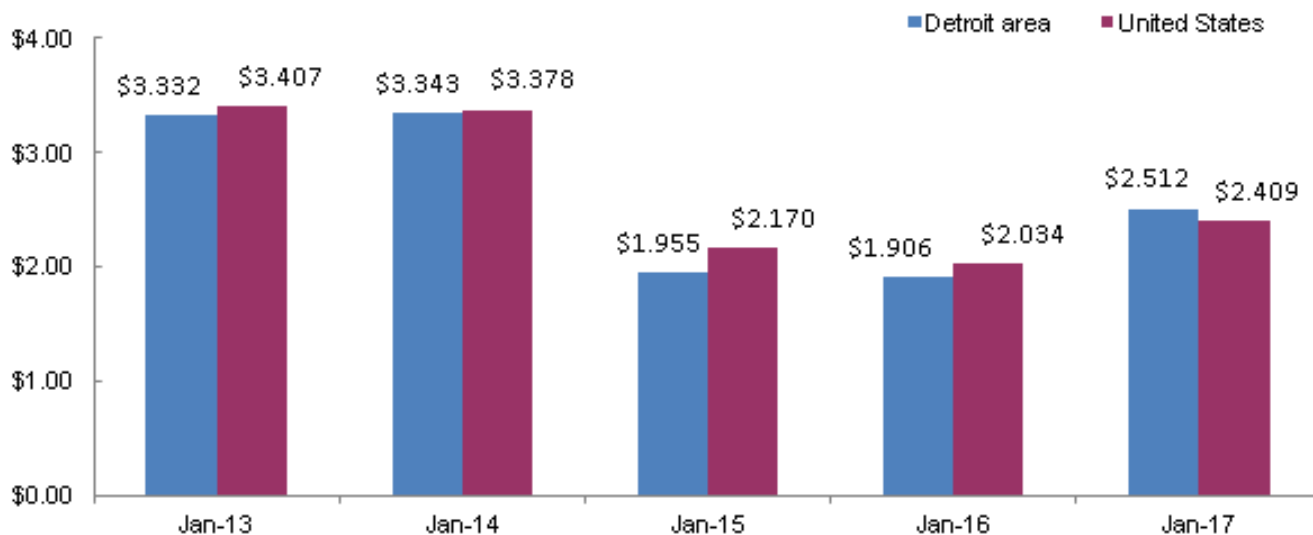
### Average Energy Prices, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint — January 2017

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.512 a gallon in the Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint area in January 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were up 60.6 cents compared to last January when they averaged \$1.906 per gallon. Detroit area households paid an average of 16.7 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in January 2017, up 7.1 percent from January 2016. In January, the average cost of utility (piped) gas was 78.6 cents per therm, up from its average price of 76.6 cents per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.512 a gallon, costs for gasoline in the Detroit area were 10.3 cents higher than the national average of \$2.409 a gallon in January 2017. In the previous four years (2013-2016) in January, Detroit area gasoline prices have been lower than the national average, ranging from 3.5 cents to 21.5 cents less. (See [chart 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, 2013–2017 (as of January)**

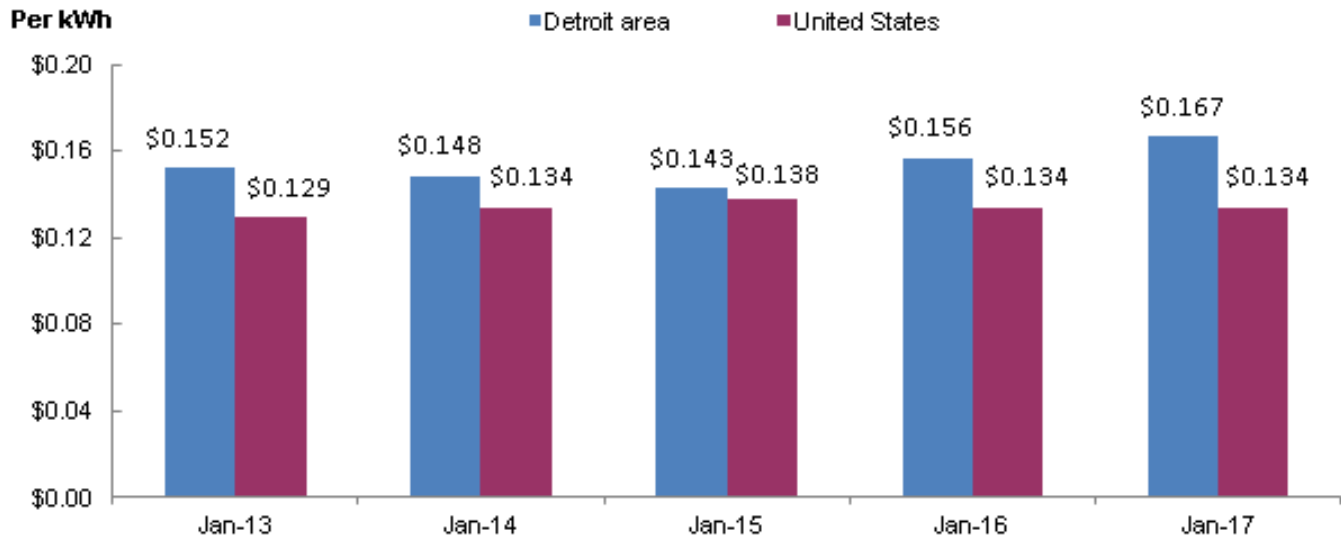
Per gallon



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 16.7 cents per kWh that Detroit households paid for electricity in January 2017 was 24.6 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.4 cents per kWh. With the exception of January 2015, when Detroit area electricity costs were comparable to the national average, in the previous four years (2013-2016) in January, Detroit area electricity costs exceeded the national average, ranging from 10.4 percent to 17.8 percent more. (See [chart 2.](#))

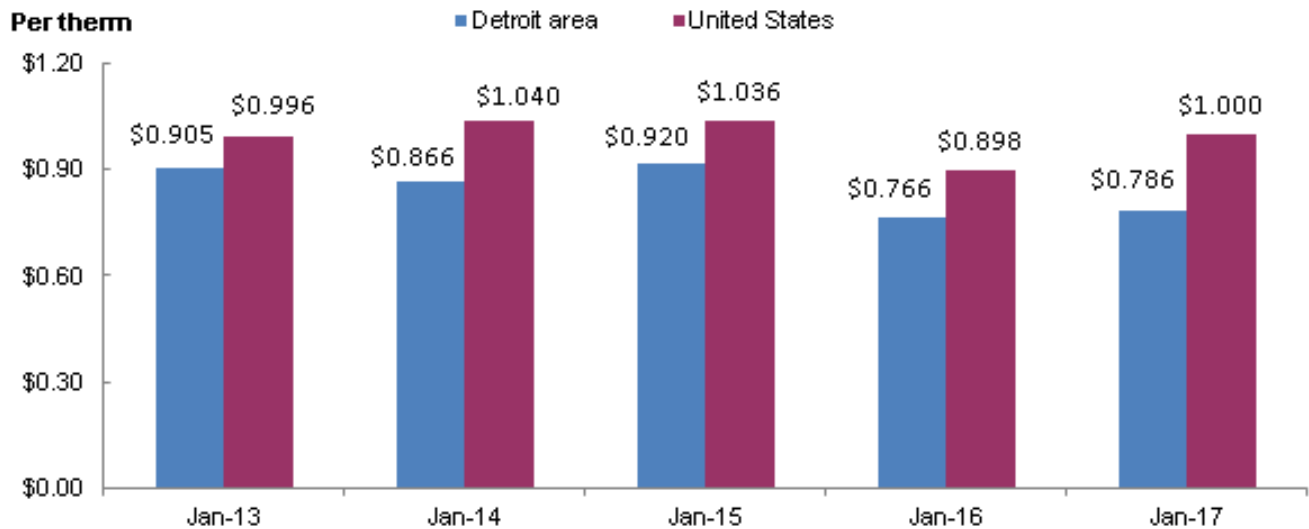
**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, 2013–2017 (as of January)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Detroit area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 78.6 cents per therm in January 2017, 21.4 percent below the national average of \$1.000 per therm. In the previous four years (2013-2016) in January, Detroit area utility (piped) gas costs were lower than the national average, ranging from 9.1 percent to 16.7 percent less. (See [chart 3.](#))

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, 2013–2017 (as of January)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, Mich.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Genesee, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties in Michigan.

Historical average energy prices for the U.S. and select metropolitan areas are available at [www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/averageenergyprices\\_selectedareas\\_table.htm](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/averageenergyprices_selectedareas_table.htm).

---

**The Consumer Price Index for February 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.**

### **Technical Note**

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information from this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Services: 800-877-8339.

**Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, January 2016 – January 2017, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Detroit area	United States	Detroit area	United States	Detroit area	United States
<b>2016</b>						
January.....	\$1.906	\$2.034	\$0.156	\$0.134	\$0.766	\$0.898
February.....	1.703	1.833	0.158	0.134	0.768	0.895
March.....	2.018	2.021	0.156	0.134	0.772	0.884
April.....	2.179	2.196	0.156	0.134	0.726	0.879
May.....	2.387	2.324	0.156	0.133	0.725	0.877
June.....	2.679	2.422	0.162	0.138	0.728	0.891
July.....	2.414	2.287	0.161	0.139	0.733	0.931
August.....	2.379	2.218	0.168	0.139	0.741	0.943
September.....	2.400	2.269	0.169	0.139	0.736	0.954
October.....	2.382	2.304	0.170	0.134	0.742	0.961
November.....	2.200	2.246	0.166	0.131	0.780	0.970
December.....	2.383	2.289	0.166	0.133	0.784	0.972
<b>2017</b>						
January.....	2.512	2.409	0.167	0.134	0.786	1.000